

Mother of Perpetual Help, you are the dispenser of all the gifts which God grants to us miserable sinners; and for this end He has made you so powerful, so rich, and so bountiful, in order that you may help us in our misery. You are the advocate of the most wretched and abandoned sinners who have recourse to you; come to my aid, dearest Mother, for I recommend myself to you. In your hands I place my eternal salvation, and to you I entrust my soul. Count me among your most devoted servants; take me under your protection, and it is enough for me. For, if you protect me, dear Mother, I fear nothing; not from my sins, because you will obtain for me the pardon of them from Jesus your Divine son. But one thing I fear, that in the hour of temptation, I may through negligence fail to have recourse to you and thus perish miserably. Obtain for me, therefore, the pardon of my sins, love for Jesus, final perseverance, and the grace to have recourse to you and (*mention your request here*), O Mother of Perpetual Help.

Recite the Hail Mary three times.

**Pray for us, O Mother of Perpetual Help,
that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, who gave us Your Holy Mother Mary, whose renowned image we venerate, to be a Mother ever ready to help us, grant, we beseech You, that we who constantly implore her maternal aid may merit to enjoy perpetually the fruits of Your redemption, who lives and reigns with God forever and ever. **Amen**

*This Nine Day Novena may be said at any time,
but especially before the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, June 27th.*

For further information you may contact:

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UNDER HER MANY TITLES**

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Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help



*“Pray for us,
that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.”*

History of the Devotion to *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*

The origin of the icon at the center of devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help is unknown. Many have thought that Saint Luke painted it, but its existence prior to the late Middle Ages cannot be confirmed; it is likely eastern in origin because of the Byzantine style and Greek lettering. The icon shows the Child Jesus fleeing into his mother's protective arms as the archangels Michael and Gabriel show him the instruments of crucifixion. The Greek letters spell out the first letter of Mary's and Jesus' names.

The icon arrived in Rome in the fifteenth century, after a merchant who had heard about a miraculous image in the island of Crete went to the island and stole it. When he arrived in Rome with the icon among his wares, he fell very ill. As he lay dying, he ordered that a friend place the icon in a church, perhaps hoping that it would alleviate his suffering. The friend took the icon to his own home instead, where his wife hung it in their bedroom.

The Virgin, evidently not pleased with this arrangement, appeared several times to the man and told him she wanted her image to be placed in a church. The man, despite the miraculous visitation, was not moved to relinquish control of the image. The Blessed Virgin next appeared to the man's daughter and asked that the icon be enshrined in a church between the two relatively huge churches of St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran. The daughter communicated this to her father and he relented; thus the icon was enshrined in 1499 in St. Matthew's, the church that lies between the two larger edifices in Rome, Italy.

Pilgrims flocked to the small church for 300 years to pray before the miraculous image, until Napoleon's invading army destroyed the church in 1798. Once the soldiers had left the area, people searched the ruins looking for the image but could not locate it anywhere. It seemed that the image had been lost, and for the next 60 years, there was no mention of it.

In 1855, the Order of Redemptorists came to Rome, and its members were granted possession of the former site of St. Matthew's to build a church in honor of their founder, St. Alphonsus Liguori. It happened that a young Redemptorist priest remembered that as a young boy he had been told of a miraculous image once enshrined in the previous church. The image had been safely transferred to an Augustinian monastery near Rome.

When the Redemptorists heard of this, they petitioned the pope

to allow the image to be returned to the spot that the Blessed Virgin had requested. The Holy Father granted their request and further commissioned the Redemptorist Order to spread devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help throughout the world. The image was transferred in a solemn procession on April 26, 1866, to the Church of St. Alphonsus.

Today, replicas of the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help grace the altars of countless churches throughout the World. +

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

(The following prayers are repeated once a day for **NINE consecutive days).**

Behold at your feet, O Mother of Perpetual Help, a wretched sinner who has recourse to you and confides in you. O Mother of Mercy, have pity on me. I hear you called by all, the Refuge and the Hope of sinners; be, then, my refuge and my hope. Assist me, for the love of Jesus Christ; stretch forth your hand to a miserable fallen creature, who recommends himself to you, and who devotes himself to your service forever. I bless and thank Almighty God, who in His mercy has given me this confidence in you, which I hold to be a pledge of my eternal salvation. It is true, dearest Mother, that in the past I have miserably fallen into sin, because I had not turned to you. I know that with your help, I shall conquer. I know, too, that you will assist me, if I recommend myself to you; but I fear, dear Mother, that in time of danger, I may neglect to call on you, and thus lose my soul. This grace, then, I ask of you with all the fervor of my soul, that, in all the attacks of hell, I may ever have recourse to you. O Mary, help me; O Mother of Perpetual Help, never suffer me to lose my God.

Recite the Hail Mary three times.

Mother of Perpetual Help, grant that I may ever invoke your most powerful name, which is the safeguard of the living and the salvation of the dying. O Purest Mary, O Sweetest Mary, let your name henceforth be ever on my lips. Delay not, O Blessed Lady, to help me whenever I call on you; for, in all my temptations, in all my needs, I shall never cease to call on you, ever repeating your Sacred Name, Mary! O, what consolation, what sweetness, what confidence, what emotion fills my soul when I utter your Sacred Name, or even only think of you! I thank the Lord for having given you, for my good, so sweet, so powerful, so lovely a name. But I will not be content with merely uttering your name; let my love for you prompt me ever to hail you, Mother of Perpetual Help.

Recite the Hail Mary three times.